

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 MAY 2006

NORTH WEST YOUTH PROJECT SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT EVALUATION

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Policy and Resources Committee of the outcome of the evaluation of the Service Level Agreement with North West Youth Project and make recommendations accordingly.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The aim of North West Youth Project is to provide informal educational opportunities to young people aged 5 to 25 years of age in the North West Kilmarnock Area.
- 2.2** The Project is managed by a voluntary management committee and supervised by Community Learning and Development.
- 2.3** East Ayrshire Council has a Service Level Agreement with the management Committee for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2006 which set out targets for the Project and required annual monitoring.

3. REPORT

- 3.1** The Project has been in receipt of annual funding from East Ayrshire Council which provides for their general running and staffing costs in order that they can deliver the service identified in their Service Level Agreement.
- 3.2** Officers have continued to work with the Project to identify and consider new developments and encourage them to investigate other funding opportunities.
- 3.3** The Project was subject to an evaluation by the Department of Educational and Social Services, Community Learning and Development Service.

4. PERFORMANCE

- 4.1** In 2005/2006, North West Youth Project had a membership of 192 young people who attend various youth groups each week.

- 4.2 The young people are actively involved in the decision making processes within the Project through informal discussion groups. They are also in the process of establishing a junior committee and have been asked to identify a young person's representative for the Kilmarnock North Local Committee.
- 4.3 In 2005/2006 the project successfully attracted an additional £70,920 from Working for Families and the Robertson Trust which has enabled them to develop the programme for young people.
- 4.4 The Management Committee have placed a strong emphasis on continual professional development and all youth work staff are currently undertaking the SQA in youth work module.
- 4.5 The Project has continued to work closely with a range of partners and this is reflected in the programme for young people which includes peer education, afterschool activities, ICT learning opportunities, drama and holiday programmes. The Project received several letters of support from partners which have been included in the evaluation report.
- 4.6 The evaluation concluded that the Project is clearly addressing its stated aims as well as the aims, values and priorities of the Council. It also recommended that the Project is supported in the implementation of the HMle How Good is our Community Learning and Development Evaluation Framework and that the use of the evaluation tool be a condition of funding.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In 2005/2006 the Project was awarded £66,225 which included an inflationary uplift.
- 5.2 In 2005/2006 the Project successfully attracted funding from Working for Families and the Robertson Trust for specific developments within the Project.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATONS

- 7.1 The aims and objectives of the Project are compatible with East Ayrshire's Community Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Members of the Policy and Resources Committee are asked to:

- (i) remit the development of a third Service Level Agreement with North West Youth Project for the period 2006/2009 to officers;
- (ii) approve an annual award of £68,211 to the Project which includes an inflationary uplift; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

4 May 2006
KG/DG/JP

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Service Level Agreement Evaluation Report

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR